

# SNAP SHOTS AT DAILY EVENTS

Taken at Random by Wilfred McNabb for Socialist Review.

## --Fitting Comment Upon Matters Pertaining to the Daily Grind of Capitalism's Profit-Making Mill.

Forty thousand persons thronged a New York race track on "Independence" Day to witness an imitation railroad smash-up. That is nearly three-quarters of the number of workmen killed and wounded in actual smashups on the railroad branch of the class war each year. The casualties would be greatly lessened in this field, we may be sure, if the railroad workers only knew they were in a fight. The policy of permitting wolves in sheep's clothing to lead them into the mental ambushade of "identical interests" is alone responsible for the slaughter.

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The other day Bryan said—but who in hell cares what Bryan said!

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The coal operators (?) have figured that the miners lost \$12,000,000 by their lay-off from April 1 to May 15. I was never good at "figgers," but I could be induced to gamble that if the miners worked from now until Gehenna becomes a glare of ice they won't have \$12,000,000. My confidence is inspired by the fact that coal miners are purchased in the market just in the same manner as other cabbage heads are bought; and as the price paid for the commodity is, as a general rule, the cost of its production, I can't see how the miners can save money and keep alive.

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After naming seventy insurance companies accused of swindling those whose business it is to swindle the working class generally and of San Francisco particularly, William Bonbast Hearst's hired brains remarks: "It is high time that insurance companies ready to meet their obligations should take steps to force out of the business the swindlers and the 'welchers.'"—McTwen, you're kiddin'. You know success is what business men are after, and success is measured by dollars by dollars. The more dollars you cheat another out of the more successful you are. Permit me to quote (from memory) a couplet showing that business men have been guided by the same motives ever since wage slavery succeeded serfdom:

"Get place and wealth if possible by grace;  
If not, by any means get wealth and place."

I presume the owner of your brain power possesses considerable property in San Francisco which was insured

against loss by fire, and now that it has been destroyed by earthquake he'd like to collect. He doesn't care from whom, so long as he collects, and you must write editorials anent "swindlers." "On the dead," Arthur, wouldn't you like to see industry co-operatively organized, so that you would not be compelled to sell your intellect to an unlettered possessor of his father's dirty dollars?

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Even small railroads in this country and Canada report their "earnings" at approximately \$6,500,000 for the last week in June. If those roads were owned co-operatively by the men who risk their limbs and lives in running them, the dividends returned to them would make considerable difference in their standard of living. But as their wages are not high enough to enable them to buy the railroads and as the likelihood of the stockholders giving them away is very slim, to say the least, I would suggest to those workers that if they vote the Socialist ticket, along with all other workers, laws will be passed making the roads social property and all the powers of government will be used to see that they get all they earn when they work.

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The New York Herald is authority for the statement that in a speech before "practically the entire American colony" in France recently Ambassador McCormick pointed out that "American contributions to the industries in the lines of steam, electricity, the submarine cable, the air brake and the grain thresher and binder are not alone material achievements, but also spiritual, lightening the burden of labor and adding to the comforts of the poor." Now, that may appear to the man in France to be the case, but to the man up a tree it doesn't look just so. While willing to admit that the introduction of machinery lightens the burden of labor, in that less laborers are required to do the necessary work; at the same time we can't quite see how it adds to the comforts of the poor. As "the poor" are the laborers and the laborers are "the poor," we are convinced that the more their labor is lightened the less "comforts" they have. The "spiritual achievements" alluded to by the ambassador undoubtedly are the "three fingers of wood alcohol" taken after work by those whose duty it is to run the machinery as a counterbalance to their nerve-destroying toil.